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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **The 21<sup>st</sup> Navajo Nation Council**

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## **Navajo Nation urges Flagstaff City Council to disapprove proposed contract to sell potable water to Arizona Snowbowl**

**FLAGSTAFF, Ariz.** – Come August 30, during the Flagstaff City Council's special meeting, the Navajo Nation will once again adamantly oppose any and all expansion to the Arizona Snowbowl Ski Resort. Currently, a proposal rests before the City Council that, if passed, would allow the city to sell potable water to the ski resort for snowmaking purposes.

On July 21, the 21<sup>st</sup> Navajo Nation Council overwhelmingly voted in favor of Resolution CJY-34-10 urging "the Flagstaff City Council and Flagstaff Water Commission to disapprove a proposed contract to sell potable water to Arizona Snowbowl for snowmaking on Dook'o'oslííd (San Francisco Peaks)." Passage of the resolution reaffirmed the Navajo Nation's opposition to the expansion of the Arizona Snowbowl and reaffirmed its opposition to the further desecration of Dook'o'oslííd by the proposed use of treated wastewater.

A week later on July 29, the Navajo Nation delegation consisting of Council delegates Thomas Walker, Jr. (Birdsprings/Luepp/Tolani Lake) and Raymond Maxx (Coalmine Canyon/Toh Nanees Dizi), delivered the official position to city council members. Delegates Walker and Maxx met with City Council members Art Babbott, Celia Barotz, and Karla Brewster to further explain the Nation's official stance and the harm it would cause to the Navajo people.

Later that day, Delegate Raymond Maxx also delivered the official position of the Nation to the Flagstaff City Water Commission, a citizen based body, during their special commission hearing at Sinagua Middle School in Flagstaff. The commission considered various options, including the use of direct reclaimed water (effluent) or indirect recovered reclaimed water (potable). The water commission ultimately voted 5-4 in favor of giving the city of Flagstaff a committed option of either effluent or potable water to the ski resort.

"By asking the Navajo Nation if we prefer potable or effluent water is essentially asking us if we are willing to negotiate our identity as Navajos; Dook'o'oslííd is inextricably tied to our identity, much like one's family members are part of one's identity," said Delegate Walker. "It is like asking us to turn our back on a family member. As such, this is a matter that we cannot negotiate."

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